

TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS IN EATERIE COULD BE A

TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

Eat, drink and be merry is the Stark choice

Days Out & Events

Go Wild in the Country Fri-Sun 11.30am, 2pm. National Museum of Rural Life, Wester Kitchside, East Kilbride, 0131 247 4369. Enjoy country activities including den-making, ranger skills, photography and our Garden Detectives exhibition. Make a day of it with a picnic and trips on our Farm Explorer. (2 hours).

Kelburn Brazilian Festival Sat-Sun 10am. Kelburn Castle and Country Centre, Kelburn, Fairlie, 01475 568685. £5-£25. Expect samba drumming, Capoeira displays, live music, spectacular stage shows from Ritmo Dance Company, workshops, Carnival sounds, colourful parades, fun, feathers, fantasy and much, much more.

The Big Explorer Fri-Sun. Science Mall at Glasgow Science Centre, 50 Pacific Quay, 0141 420 5000. Free with Science Mall entry. This new exploration space is specifically designed for little explorers, from babies to seven year olds.

Mansfield Park Farmers' Market Tomorrow 10am. Mansfield Park, Hyndland Street, 0141 287 2500. Free. Come along for the chance to buy a wide variety of quality fresh Scottish produce direct from local farmers and producers. Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month

Blochaim Car Boot Sale Sun 6am. Glasgow Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable & Fish Market, 130 Blochaim Road, 0141 287 2500. Free. Bargains Galore to be found. Anything from curtains and bedding to butchermeat and cakes. Great day out for all the family. Every Sunday!

Friday Ceilidh Today 8.30pm. Sloan's Bar & Restaurant, 62 Argyle Arcade/108 Argyle Street, 0141 221 8886. £8/£5. Weekly Ceilidh in the Grand Ballroom £8/5 or 2 course meal for £19.95 w/ Free Entry

Gourmet Glasgow Fri-Sun noon. Various venues, City Centre, Various prices. A month-long festival of food, with dining offers, food demonstrations and tasting opportunities, cocktail making shows and specialist/ gourmet menus in participating restaurants and bars. Times and prices vary, but watch out for the Dinearound Deals offering a meal and a dram from £15. Booking should be made directly with the restaurant or via www.graonline.co.uk

The World Pipe Band Championships Tomorrow 9am. Glasgow Green, Greenydyke Street, 0141 353 8000. £11-£25. Exciting competition across all Grades in the fiercely contested Drum Major contest as well as Highland Dancing and Glasgow World Highland Games Championships.

Comedy

Highlight Comedy Today 7pm. Highlight, 11 Renfrew Street, 0844 844 0044. From £12. Danny Buckler, Trevor Crook, Simon Bligh, Dave Johns

Comedy At The State Tomorrow 8.15pm. State Bar, 148 Holland Street, 0141 332 2159. £6 (£5). A weekly night of comedy featuring new and experienced acts in a friendly intimate atmosphere. This week featuring a mystery guest from the Edinburgh Fringe, ably supported by Gerry McDade, Barry McDonald, Julia Sutherland, Will setchell and regular MC Chris The Ram Broomfield.

Highlight Comedy Tomorrow 7pm. Highlight, 11 Renfrew Street, 0844 844 0044. From £12. Danny Buckler, Trevor Crook, Simon Bligh, Dave Johns

Michael Redmond's Pick of the Fringe Sun 7.30pm, 7.30pm. The Stand, Woodlands Road, 0870 600 6055. £6 (£1-£5). Why navigate the M8 just to drown in a sea of tourists and flyers? Once again, The Stand brings the best of the Fringe to the West coast. Host Michael Redmond presents four top acts, smuggled over the

FROM PAGE 25

Shawlands, the part-time group is gearing up to entertain in Woodlands, in the West End, tomorrow night after the audience enjoys refreshments.

Stark will perform two one-act plays from Duets by Peter Quilter in the Woodlands Road Beanscene where the audience will enjoy a meal and drinks, all for £16.

Jill Korn, actor and co-owner of Stark along with all her colleagues in the company, explained how the concept came about.

She said: "We had heard that Beanscene bosses were interested in bringing in different kinds of entertainment.

"We approached them initially in Shawlands and said 'we can do something'.

"They said it had to be light, it had to be comic, but that they were keen to get the thing off the ground.

"They said they could combine that with food and drink and sell that as a combined idea.

"It worked out great in the Shawlands venue. We had a sell-out and fantastic feedback from everybody.

"There was something

happening throughout the whole evening.

"People had the whole experience of coming there, having something to eat and drink, having time to chat with friends in an informal atmosphere and then being entertained with two short pieces, both of which were funny.

"The feedback we had was great."

STARK Theatre is no ordinary theatre company and its members are used to doing things slightly differently.

It was founded in 2006 by 10 people from different walks of life who attended acting classes at Strathclyde University.

"We had gone through three or four years of classes together and we decided to set up a theatre group ourselves," said Jill.

The 10 members range in age from their mid-20s to mid-50s and continue their day jobs while acting with the company.

Jill said: "We all have day jobs.

"One of number is a chief executive of his own business, another is an actor and magician, one is a deputy headteacher, and we have one doing a PhD in engineering.

■ **Stark members, from left, Lorenzo Novani, Jill Korn, Mark Tominay and Debbie MacKenna will play in the Woodlands, venue, below right**

"I'm a business training consultant ... sometimes that is a useful thing to combine with a bit of dramatic sense," Jill said with a laugh.

The group started Stark as a co-operative company and Jill says the members prefer the informal style and favour improvising pieces when they can.

"We all own it together and we have a formal constitution but we don't really do things formally," she says.

"We meet every week and we look for good ideas, I suppose we bring our different life experiences to it and our different backgrounds."

"It's something that is definitely coming together well as theatre.

"Everybody has the same commitment to doing it, to producing something.

"But if you get ideas coming from all those different walks of life you are going to get a real mix of ideas, sometimes it takes a lot of discussion but that is because we are

all coming from different places.

"We haven't all got an acting background, we haven't all got an artistic background so we are bringing a lot of real life into it, I think."

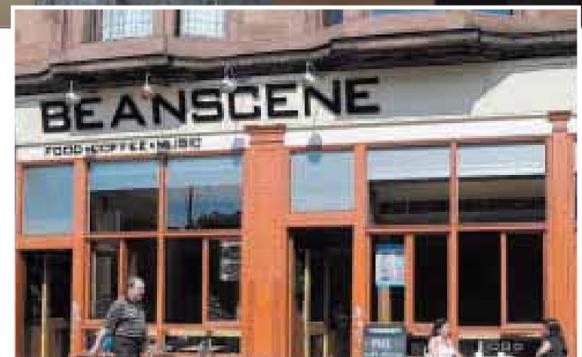
ALTHOUGH they have 10 members, Stark prefer minimal productions and their production of Duets uses just four of their number, two for each play.

The plays, The Holiday,

about a couple who go away to the sun to get divorced "gently", and Secretarial Skills, about a gay man's ambivalent relationship with his faithful PA, are comic pieces chosen with the unusual setting in mind.

Jill said: "We had a look at plays of the right length, we wanted one-act plays.

"Duets is actually four plays and we read all of them and looked at the two we thought would come across best.



★ TOP TEN EVENTS ★ MOVIES ... PAGES 38-39

★ STARS ★ CROSSWORD ★ CARTOONS ★ QUICK QUIZ ★ SUDOKU...

city limits to give you a taste of the Festival right here on your own doorstep. Line-up includes Lucy Porter and Mary Bourke with more to be announced. All line-ups subject to last minute change.

Theatre

Bedroom Farce Today 7.30pm, Tomorrow 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Theatre Royal, 282 Hope Street, 08448 717647. £15 - £24. Sir Peter Hall's production of one of Alan Ayckbourn's best loved works. Four couples, three bedrooms, two celebrations, one blazing row and an illicit kiss (or two). Alan Ayckbourn's ingenious comedy shines a brilliant spotlight onto the trials and tribulations of suburban marriage. Trevor and Susannah have a problem

relationship which requires urgent attention. What better solution than to talk it over with family and friends? Preferably in their respective bedrooms and ideally in the middle of the night.

Clubs

Maggie Mays Basement presents Riot Radio Today 11pm. Maggie May's, 60 Tronagate, 0141 548 1350. £5 (£3 (students)). Maggie Mays Basement presents Riot Radio every Friday with DJ Dan South playing Indie Rock & Roll from the 60s to the Noughties.

Spit Fire @ Blackfriars Basement Today 9.30pm. Blackfriars, 36 Bell Street, 0141 332 4465. £4. A club night for genuine music lovers. A delectable selection of

New/Classic, Indie, Post Punk, Pop, Motown, Electronic. Arcade Fire to LCD Soundsystem.

Cosmic Microwave with Dirt Crew Tomorrow 11pm, 11pm. Universal, 57 Sauchiehall Lane, 0141 332 8899. £7 (£6). Cosmic Microwave presents DIRT CREW (Dirt Crew Rec, Berlin/Mash (Dirt Crew)/Clinical. Join the party and come along to the debut appearance of Dirt Crew in Glasgow at Cosmic Microwave.

Classical

Music for a Summer Afternoon Sun 3pm. The Cathedral of the Isles, College Street, Millport, No booking. Donation (N/A). Wills Morgan (tenor) and Alastair Chisholm (piano)

give a recital of memorable modern Scottish songs

Folk

Dias Brazil Today 8pm. Boteco do Brasil, 62 Tronagate, 0141 548 1330. Free (Free). The Dias blend of bossa nova and samba with added colour from instruments such as the bazuqui, berimbau, conch shell and cuica, is a funky, foot-stomping take on classic Brazilian and Afro-Cuban rhythms.

JEM Today 8pm. Tchai-Ovna House of Tea, 42 Otago Lane, 0141 357 4524. Indian and Scottish music.



■ **Lucy Porter at The Stand this weekend. See Comedy**

Piping Live! Bagpipes Of The World Today 1.45pm. George Square, City Centre, 0141 204 4400. Free. Piping Live! 2010 presents Bagpipes of the World a celebration of pipes from around the globe. Today features The English Piping Tradition

Piping Live! Glenfiddich Whisky Tasting Today 4.45pm. National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater Street, 0141 353 0220. Free. Piping Live! 2010 presents whisky tasting with our sponsor Glenfiddich.

Jazz

Saturday Jazz: The Ribadee Players Tomorrow 3pm. Brel, 37-39 Ashton Lane, 0141 342 4966. Free (Free). The Ribadee Players' music ranges from a contemporary

take on the great American songbook to funk and latin classics.

Rock & Pop

Blackbird - The Beatles Tribute Band Tomorrow 7.30pm. The Eagle Inn, 351 Bank Street, Coatbridge, 01236 443357. £17.50. Includes a three-course meal.

Inspector Tapehead Album Launch with Yusuf Azak + guest Today 7.30pm. The Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo Street, 0141 221 77057. £4. Inspector Tapehead are proud to announce a special event to celebrate the release of their debut album Duresse Code. Plus support acts.

■ **TOP 10 CHOICE - PAGE 39**

SHOWBIZ EXTRA

Ugly Betty axe broke my heart

By LISA WILLIAMS

WHEN Ugly Betty was axed after four series, actress Ana Ortiz had to remind herself that it was just a television show.

She had been in the Channel 4 American comedy since the start, playing Hilda, the fiery older sister of bespectacled heroine Betty Suarez, and relished being part of such a ground-breaking show.

"Ultimately it's a TV show and I know that," the 39-year-old begins.

"But, that said, for a while we were the only Mexican family on TV in a nation that's full of Latinos. This was a show centred around a woman first of all, and she happened to be Latin. This was unheard of, and everybody watched it because they totally related to it."

Not only that, but fashion magazine assistant Betty - who wears her heart on her sleeve and braces on her teeth - is something of an anti-heroine. With her thick specs, full fringe and frumpy clothes, she uses her brain and personality to get by in the ultra-shallow world of fashion.

"A lot of young girls, not just Latin ones, come up to me and tell me how much they love Betty and how she was an inspiration to them," Ortiz says.

The US show, which stars America Ferrera in the lead role and names



■ **Ortiz 'loves everything' about her Ugly Betty character, Hilda**

she's fiercely protective of her family.

"I love everything about her!" Ortiz states.

"I love her fire, I love the passion for her family, I love her whole energy. She's really dynamic."

The actress is certainly as loud and excitable as her alter-ego, peppering her conversation with exclamations, jokes and peals of throaty laughter - she even admits that playing such an outspoken character has rubbed off on her in real life.

"After four years she has snaked her way into me a little bit. But in a good way, although my husband might disagree if you asked him! If I get into an argument, he'll go, 'OK Hilda!'," she says with a wicked laugh.

Fans will be pleased to know that unlucky-in-love Hilda finds her perfect match in the upcoming final series.

"She finds a man who can handle her," Ortiz explains, before rushing on to describe her favourite moment from the new series - one which regular viewers of the comedy will have been expecting from the start.

"My son has a really powerful storyline this season. For me to be part of that and to see this young actor and the writers handle it so incredibly well was amazing, and I really feel that's another important - and game-changing - part of the show.

"This season is really where he blossoms, for lack of a better word, and finds out who he is," she says.

Fans will also be waiting for a conclusion to the will-they-won't-they romance between Betty and her boss Daniel. Ortiz is keeping quiet about this one but she does reveal that there are a few changes for Betty in store...

■ **The final series of Ugly Betty is on E4 on Wednesday nights at 9pm.**

“I was really sad...broken-hearted to be honest. We saw the writing on the wall...but you're never really prepared